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NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER COMMITTEE



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

Senate Bill 1583: Marvin Braude Bikeway Fact Sheet

Anyone who has ever enjoyed a walk in the Santa Monica Mountains or a bike ride along Venice Beach has one man in particular to thank – Marvin Braude.

Braude was a visionary and tenacious public servant who represented the Westside on the Los Angeles City Council from 1965 to 1997. He was well known both for his persistence and determination, illustrated by his 20-year battle for smoking limits in public places. His efforts culminated in 1993 when the city council passed a ban on smoking in the city's 7,000 restaurants, making LA the largest city in the nation to take such a step.

But Marvin Braude will most fondly be remembered for his dedication to protecting open space and parks, especially in the Santa Monica Mountains, and his leadership in the creation of a bike path at Venice Beach.

When Braude was first elected to the city council, the fate of the Santa Monica Mountains was uncertain with much of the land zoned for development. He advocated tightening the zoning laws to reduce the size of the developments and purchasing land for the public trust. With former Congressman Anthony Beilenson and others, he also succeeded in the creation of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area.

In the early 1970s, Braude, an avid cyclist, spearheaded an effort to build a bike path along a well traveled part of Venice Beach and beyond. In 1989, the final 1.2 mile strip on a City of Santa Monica beach was completed. Today, the very popular 22.3 mile long beach bicycle path runs from the Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades (City of Los Angeles) and the county owned beach in the City of Torrance.

Marvin Braude passed away on December 7, 2005, but the fruits of his labor live on. In honor of the important and long-lasting impression that Braude left on our state and the Los Angeles area, Senate Bill 1583 proposes to name the beach bicycle path in Los Angeles County the "Marvin Braude Bikeway."